

Summaries of articles

Hematology and culture.

The population of Western Europe

Jean BERNARD and Jacques RUFFIÉ

The authors studied the possible correlations to be found in the South-East of France as between the distribution of blood factors (particularly blood groups A, B, O and Rh) on the one hand, and certain cultural traits (common law practice and phonetic and syntactic linguistic characteristics), on the other hand. The findings confirm that such correlations exist ; they suggest the existence of an ancient population that in early times inhabited Western Europe and of whom the present Basques are no doubt the purest representatives. Biologically speaking, this population is by no means confined within the borders of the present Basques provinces but is found in the whole South-East of France (e.g. in the region of Aquitaine : zone in which the O gene reaches 0,70), where one can also point to a certain number of fossile cultural traits (toponyms) or linguistic deviations that no doubt bear witness to the existence of a very ancient pre-Indo-european substratum. Furthermore, this example demonstrates the contribution that hemotypology can now make to the sciences of man : ethnology, history, pre-history, and underlines the influence of cultural traits on the biological evolution of human populations.

Eye colour at the time of the First Empire.

The evolution of a characteristic during a period of 238 years

P. A. GLOOR and J. HOUDAILLE

The army records preserved in the archives of Vincennes provide millions of individual descriptions of soldiers. In this paper, the evolution of eye colour by département from the time of the First Empire up to 1940 is studied by means of a very simple index of colouration (percentage of grey eyes). The subjects belonging to the different series were, however, examined by quite different methods. In this connection it should be mentioned that the proportion of grey eyes increased towards 1770 and then decreased after 1880. In the East of France a brighter shade is observed to appear which could correspond to a trend away from the brachycephalic type long since noted by anthropologists. Several series concerning privileged social classes ("polytechnicians", senators of the Empire) show, moreover, that considerable differences existed between classes both with respect to size and to eye colour.

SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES

***An anthropology of male youth in France,
derived from a cantonal mapping (1819 – 1830)***

M. DEMONET, P. DUMONT,
E. LE ROY LADURIE

This article is a continuation, on the sensitive scale of cantonal analysis, of research on statistics for recruitment in France during the Restoration. The simultaneous use of computer mapping and factorial analysis makes it possible to reproduce two essential axes which concern the anthropological and socio-economic characteristics of French male youth : indeed, an opposition emerges between the developed region of the North-East and the less developed zones of the Center, West and South. Moreover, the predictable contrast between the seaboard and the interior turns out to be completely independent of the first opposition.

***Materials for the religious history
of the French people (1802 – 1939)***

Fernand BOULARD

*While religious practice is not sufficient to define a christian, it is a valuable indicator of the level of permeation of christian practice in society, and one of those rare facts which make possible an objective approach to popular mentality. An example will be given of the type of material that a systematic exploitation of sources (mainly the records of bishops visitations) can offer to the historian and the sociologist. The part of the material presented here as specimen covers five dioceses (englobing six départements of the Loire region ; the complete statistical materials, which will be published in 1977 with the title *Matériaux pour l'histoire religieuse du peuple français* will cover 21 dioceses (24 départements) including Paris, from 1802 to the present.*

***Race and folklore.
The official image of France in 1800***

Marie-Noëlle BOURGUET

At the dawn of the 19th century a project to establish a « Statistique générale de la France » was conceived. The purpose was to draw an accurate picture of the country and its inhabitants at the end of the Revolution. Napoleon's prefects were made responsible for directing the survey département by département. Children of the Enlightenment, these untried observers availed themselves of the analytical categories of the physicians and the naturalists of the 18th century : they came up with topographically slanted descriptions of the French countryside, which saw human diversity as related to diversity of the landscape and ways of living. At the time, the view was that this environmentalist approach would afford a means of building a human science on a regional basis. But other premises, ideological and political, causes this project of an anthropogeographical kind to go off course : in contrast to the multifarious France they observed, the prefects posited the image of an ideal France, one and homogeneous, where the others, be they peasants or people from Provence, had no place, except insofar as they would gradually conform to the urban and refined, national model. Their anthropological thinking borders on racism and is intolerant of difference.

***Physicians and « woman's nature »
at the time of the Code civil***

YVONNE KNIBIEHLER

At the time of the Enlightenment, the physicians taking their cue from the anthropologists, considered men—and women—as subjects for scientific study and no longer as creatures different from all others. One of them, Roussel (in 1775) tried to define the specificity of woman's "nature": for him, the organic difference which distinguishes women from men, gives rise to all the physical and moral characteristics of woman's being. He established a stereotype which enclosed woman in her sexual body, in a biological destiny, but without depreciating it. Following him, the physicians who were the contemporaries of Napoleon I, proved the inferiority of woman as compared to man: her physical weakness, her excessive sensibility, her fragile and unstable intelligence, her constant predisposition to hysteria condemn her to a "sweet bondage" at the service of the male and the children. At the same time—women being excluded from the universities—obstetrics and gynecology became male sciences. Kept away from public life, women were also kept in ignorance of all that concerned their own bodies, again in the name of medical science.